

REMARKS

Claims 15-18, 20-23 and 29-32 are pending. Claims 15, 16, 21 and 30 were rewritten in independent form and the dependency of claims 17, 20, 22, 29 and 31 was amended accordingly. Claims 1-14, 19 and 24-28 were canceled. Withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested for at least the reasons set forth below.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

These rejections are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-14, 19 and 24-28. All pending claims are either indicated as being allowable, or are now dependent upon claims indicated as being allowable.

Entry of Rule 116 Response

Entry of this response is requested because such response does not raise any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. No new matter is raised by this response. Lastly, it is requested that the response be entered even if the application is not allowed because this response will place the application in better form for appeal by materially simplifying the issues.

If the application is not in proper form for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to discuss any further outstanding issues.

Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner's rejections were fully addressed, the instant application is in condition for allowance. Entry of this Rule 116 Response and issuance of a Notice of Allowability of all pending claims is therefore earnestly solicited.

Application No. 09/922,750
Reply to Office Action of August 23, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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(Date)

By:

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